

## Bean - Bush Information



### Stat Summary

Plant Spacing: 2-4"  
Row Spacing: 18-24"  
Planting Depth: 1"  
Plants Per Person: 20  
Soil Temperature: 60-85°  
Days to Emergence: 8-16  
Recommended Soil PH: 5.5-6.5  
Earliest Outdoor Planting: After Last Frost  
✔ Can direct seed outdoors

### Planting Information

Beans are a warm-season vegetable that grow best from seeds; they will not germinate if soil temperature is below 60F. The optimum soil is slightly acidic in a pH range of 5.5 to 6.5. Plant bush beans in a sunny location after all danger of frost has passed. Plant seeds at a depth of 1 inch every 2 to 4 inches; rows should be 18 to 24 inches apart.

### Growing Information

When watering, try to avoid getting foliage wet. Water beans early in the day to allow damp plants to dry quicker; this helps reduce the potential for diseases. Beans prefer consistent moisture; mulching around plants is an excellent way to help maintain even moisture levels.

Do not use a nitrogen rich fertilizer on plants; it causes excess foliage with a low bean yield. Beans are light feeders; generally, they grow well with just an initial application of a good quality fertilizer during planting.

### Harvesting and Storing Information

Green beans are ready for harvest about 2 weeks after bloom. Pick when the pods are nearly full size but the seeds are still small. The beans should be firm and crisp; pick frequently to encourage greater bean production.

Harvest by gently pulling each bean from the vine or by snapping off at the vine end if you are going to be using the beans right away. Beans can be stored at 40 to 45 degrees F; chill injury may occur below 38 degrees F.

### Insect and Disease Information

Mexican bean beetles and bean weevils can significantly damage small plants. To treat dust them with an insect powder compatible with edible produce. If you prefer, hand pick and destroy Mexican bean beetles and eggs from leaves.

Bacterial blights and white mold are caused by excessive dampness. Minimize problems by avoiding wetting plant foliage and watering in the early part of the day. Proper plant spacing and the removal of weeds allows for better air to circulate around bean foliage.

Two additional practices can help minimize disease problems: remove old plants at the end of the season; and crop rotate every 2 to 3 years.

### Yield Information

Bush beans can be harvested over a long period of time. You may wish to grow more beans if you are planning on canning or freezing them. Spring 2011, we had three standard harvests in seven weeks.

### OUR VARIETIES

Blue Lake  
E-Z Pick  
Royal Burgundy  
Tavera (OG)